

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 26, 2008. Newly-added Claims 32-48 are pending in this application, Claims 17-31 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 32 and 44 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In response to the objection to the absence of reference character 213 from the drawing, Applicant has amended the specification to delete that reference character from the application entirely. accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17-19 and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0190215 (Tashiro et al.). In addition, Claims 20 and 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Tashiro* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0033337 (Sakuragi et al.), Claims 21-26, as being obvious from *Tashiro* in view of the cited NPL ELE343 Lab publication, and Claims 27 and 28, as being obvious from *Tashiro* in view of *Sakuragi*, *NPL ELE343 Lab* and U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0033336 (Kameshima et al.). For the following reasons, however, Applicant believes that the current independent claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, are allowable over these documents.

As explained in the specification,^{1/}

In the aspects of the present invention to which the independent claims are

1/ It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited to the details of this or any other embodiment that may be referred to.

directed, (1) a constant current source is formed on a signal line at a position on an insulating supporting substrate, spaced from a readout unit rather than a pixel, and (2) the constant current source is formed on the insulating supporting substrate, together with the photoelectric converting element and/or the resetting transistor and/or the readout transistor.

With an increase in the area of a photoelectric converting apparatus formed on the insulating supporting substrate, the signal line formed thereon becomes longer and therefore has a larger resistance. This raises a significant problem of output voltage drop due to the signal line resistance (see page 19, line 21, through page 21, line 3 of the present application). The present invention solves such problem, and does so at low cost, by means of adopting the above structures (1) and (2). In this way a device structured according to either Claim 32 or Claim 44 provides the advantage of avoiding a voltage drop in the signal output being caused by the resistance of the common signal line, as well as the advantage that such a device can be formed by means of film formations simultaneously with the photoelectric converting element and other thin film transistors, and thus not being expensive to make.

Applicant submits that neither *Tashiro, Sakuragi*, the NPL ELE343 Lab publication nor *Kameshima* discloses or suggests the feature (1) that a constant current source is formed on a signal line at a position on an insulating supporting substrate, spaced from the readout unit rather than a pixel, in combination with the feature (2) that the constant current source is formed on the insulating supporting substrate, together with the photoelectric converting element and/or the resetting transistor and/or the readout transistor, as is recited in both Claim 32 and Claim 44. Moreover, none of those

documents recognize or in any fashion provide a solution for the above-described technical problem that is solved by the structures recited in those claims.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application depend from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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